

Iraq Weekly Status Report

October 22, 2008

**Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
US Department of State**

Unclassified



TABLE OF CONTENTS

HIGHLIGHTS	3
POLITICAL	
• Governance & Legislation	4
SECURITY	
• Situation Update	8
• Security Transition	9
ECONOMIC	
• Economic & Government Capacity Update	11
• Oil	13
• Essential Services	15
• Economic Indicators	21
DIPLOMATIC	
• Political Engagement	23
• Economic Engagement	25
• Coalition	26
Notes, Source Citations and Contact Information	27



HIGHLIGHTS

- Strategic Framework/Status of Forces Agreement Being Reviewed by Iraqi Government (**POLITICAL, page 4**).
- Iraqi Security Force and Coalition Operations Further Degrade AQI and Criminal Networks (**SECURITY, page 8**).
- Iraq to Reconsider Budget as Oil Prices Drop (**ECONOMIC, page 11**).
- Ambassador Ali Al-Mou'min, Kuwait's first ambassador to Iraq since that country's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, formally assumed his duties in Baghdad on October 22 (**DIPLOMATIC, page 23**).

POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation



SOFA Being Reviewed by Iraqi Government:

- The Iraqi government is currently reviewing the Strategic Framework/Status of Forces Agreement negotiated between Washington and Baghdad. Some Iraqi political leaders have expressed concern to the media. The Iraqi Cabinet met October 21 to review the agreement and government spokesman Ali Dabbagh issued a statement to the press saying that the Iraqi government will submit amendments to American officials after the ministers meet to discuss changes in the next couple days. After the final text is approved by the Cabinet, it will be sent to Parliament for approval.

UNAMI Announces Project to Support Provincial Elections:

- On October 20, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) announced the launch of an "Election Coverage Network" with its implementing partner, Media in Cooperation and Transition. The 6-month project will include the production and dissemination of "Voter Education Radio Programs", which will educate voters on procedural and technical details of the voting process and also provide objective, in depth information and analysis of parties' positions and campaign issues. The information will be provided to FM radio stations throughout Iraq and is intended to boost transparency and inclusiveness in the electoral process, and foster debate among citizens. The program is also targeted to enhance Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) capacity to engage effectively and transparently with the media.

POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation

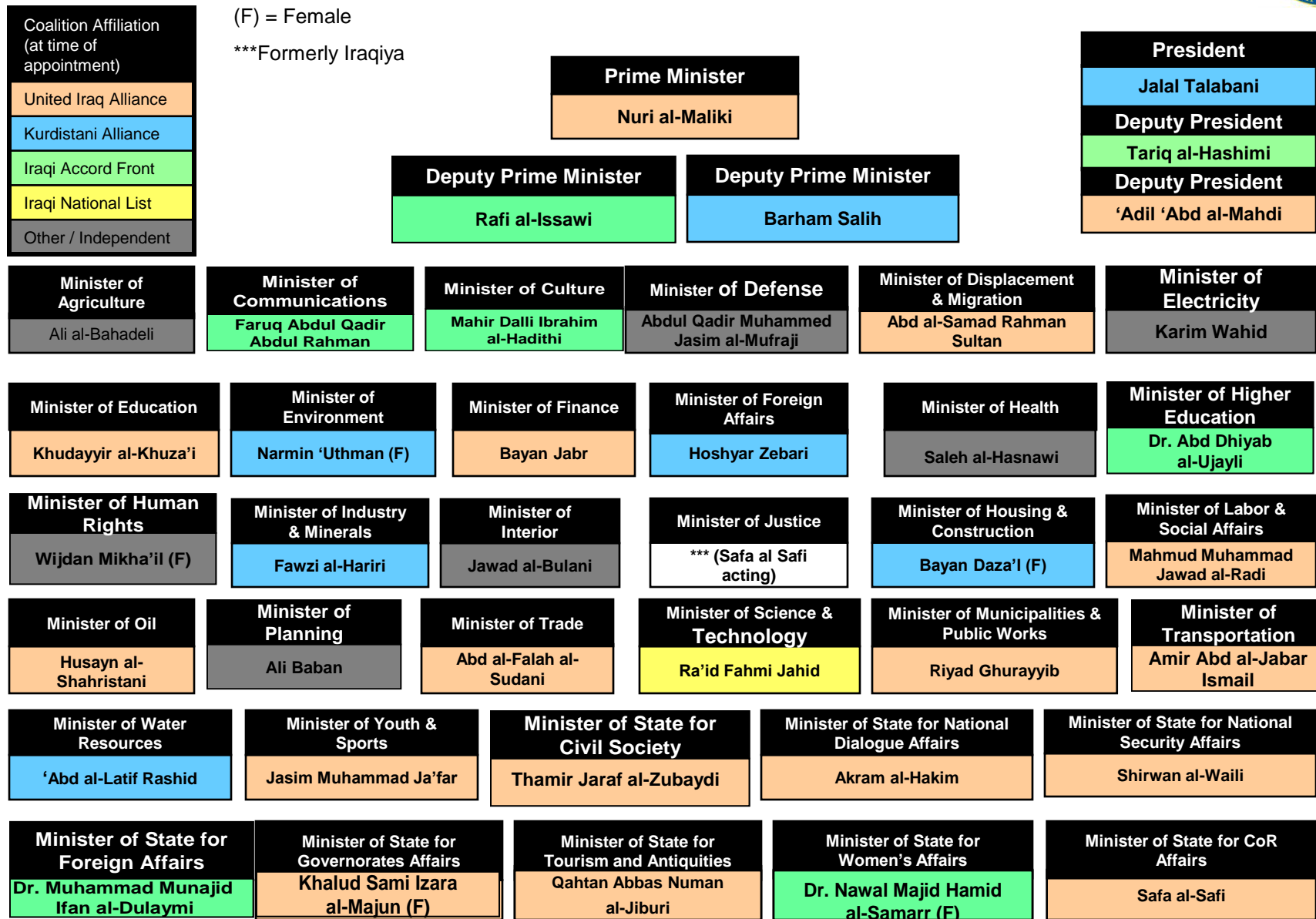


Iraqi Government Responds to Protect Christians in Mosul:

- Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki sent six ministers and the official spokesman for the government to Ninewa on October 14 to report on the situation in Mosul after attacks earlier this month left several Iraqi Christians dead. The humanitarian response to the situation has been a coordinated one, with the Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MODM) taking the lead at the national level and working with international organizations, including the International Medical Corps. Speaking at an October 19 press conference in Ninewa with Deputy Prime Minister Rafeaa al-Essawi, Lt. Gen. Riyadh Jalal, commander of the Ninewa operations command center, encouraged Christian families who left Mosul to return to their homes, noting that security had been restored. MODM estimates that 1,800 Christian families have fled Mosul.



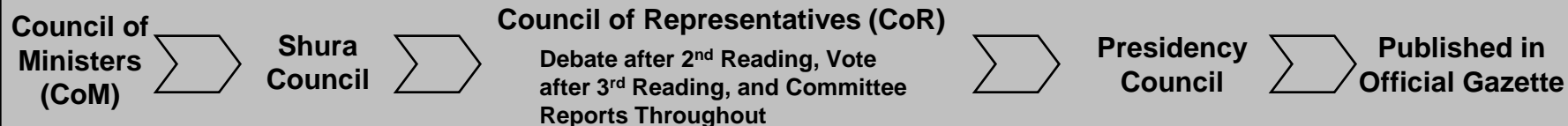
POLITICAL – Government of Iraq





POLITICAL – Key Legislation and Refugee Update

Legislative Process



Provincial Elections	PASSED: passed by the CoR on September 24; signed by the Presidency Council on October 7. The law includes an article entering it into force immediately upon signing, not waiting for publication in the Official Gazette. The CoR is considering mechanisms to guarantee minority representation in Provincial Councils.
Hydrocarbons Package	The level of control allocated to the central government in the July 2007 draft version of the Framework Law (currently in CoR Committee) is the key point of disagreement; there may be more progress on the Revenue Management Law, currently with the Shura Council, in the coming months.
Amnesty Law	PASSED: CoR approved the law on February 13; the law was signed by the Presidency Council February 26 and was implemented March 2.
Pensions Amendment	PASSED: Published in the Official Gazette December 2007.
De-Ba'athification	PASSED: Approved by default by the Presidency Council February 2008. Published in the Official Gazette in mid-February. Reform
Provincial Powers	PASSED: CoR approved the law on February 13; the law was vetoed by the Presidency Council February 26. The veto was rescinded on March 19, allowing the law to take effect.

Refugee Update

- Refugees in the region: 2-2.4 million
- Internally displaced persons in Iraq: 2.7 million
- The U.S. admitted 13,823 Iraqi refugees in FY08 (which ended September 30).
- The U.S. seeks to admit a minimum of 17,000 Iraqi refugees in FY09.



SECURITY - Situation Update

Iraqi Security Force and Coalition Operations Further Degrade AQI:

- Iraqi Special Operation Forces (ISOF) arrested a suspected al-Qaida in Iraq (AQI) terrorist in the Abu Ghurayb area of Baghdad October 17. The suspect was wanted by the Ministry of Justice and is an AQI regional commander. Separately, Coalition Forces captured four suspected AQI couriers on October 19 and 20, degrading AQI's communication network.

Iraqi Police Thwart Suicide Bombing in Salah ad Din:

- A suspected female suicide bomber was killed in Salah ad Din province October 18 at an Iraqi Police (IP) checkpoint. After refusing directions to stop and continuing to advance on the security checkpoint, the IP engaged with small arms fire, resulting in the detonation of her explosives. There were no IP or civilian casualties in the attack.

Iranian Involvement in Iraq Detailed:

- The Combating Terrorism Center at West Point released a report titled, *Iranian Strategy in Iraq: Politics and "Other Means."* detailing Iran's military aid to Iraqi militia groups. The report, which is largely based on declassified interrogation reports of Shi'a fighters captured in Iraq in 2007 and 2008, describes Iranian involvement in training, transporting, and supporting Iraqi militia fighters. The report concludes that Iranian political actions in Iraq, not Iran's military aid, are its main effort to exert influence there.



SECURITY – Security Transition

Georgia and Kazakhstan Conclude Missions in Iraq:

- Georgia and Kazakhstan held end-of-mission ceremonies at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Delta in Wasit province October 20, formally concluding their participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Both Georgia and Kazakh troops operated primarily from FOB Delta, conducting various missions including humanitarian assistance operations, explosive ordnance disposal, convoy security, perimeter and base defense, quick reaction force duties, and traffic control points operations.

Patrol Base Transitions to Iraqi Army:

- An October 16 transition ceremony commemorated the transfer of authority of Patrol Base Vanderhorn in Salah ad Din province to Iraqi control. The event marked the second transition in as many days as elements of the 17th Iraqi Army Division also assumed control of Patrol Base Warrior's Keep in Salah ad Din from Coalition Forces on October 15. Maj. Gen. Ali Jassim Muhammad Hassen Al Frejee presided over PB Vanderhorn's ceremony and stated "the Iraqi Army will be responsible in taking over and leading what used to be considered a very bad area." Six remaining patrol bases are scheduled to be transitioned in the coming weeks.



SECURITY - Iraqi Security Forces

Iraq Security Forces as of August 31, 2008 ^a			
Component	Current Authorized Personnel	Assigned Personnel	Total Trained Personnel to date
Ministry of Interior (MoI) Forces^e			
Iraqi Police Service ^f	330,880	298,369	196,781
National Police ^g	46,707	41,829	52,382
Border Enforcement	47,750	41,408	34,475
Total MoI	425,337	381,606	283,638
Ministry of Defense (MoD) Forces^h			
Army	170,512	183,756	228,737
Support Forces	15,583	19,896	21,144
Air Force	3,433	1,971	2,548
Navy	2,708	1,907	1,494
Total MoD	192,236	207,530	253,923
Counter Terrorism Bureau			
Special Operations ⁱ	4,733	4,043	4,564
Total Iraqi Security Forces	622,306	593,179	542,125

**The decrease in authorized MoD forces from the April 30 Weekly Status Report with ISF data as of March 31 reflects a change in a temporary GOI policy to increase front line units to 120% of authorized end strength to maintain present-for-duty totals at 100% while soldiers took leave. This change will make ISF reporting consistent with standard military personnel accounting practices in other countries and provide a clearer representation of ISF manning levels.

- a. Numbers do not include ministry staffs.
- b. Numbers reflect Government of Iraq (GOI) authorizations.
- c. Numbers are based upon GOI payroll data and do not reflect present for duty totals.
- d. Numbers reflect total Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) personnel trained to date, some of which are no longer assigned due to casualties, AWOL, and normal separation.
- e. MoI strength excludes other services within Ministry Of Interior (MOI), including the MOI HQ, MOI Forensics, Facility Protection Services, and contracted guards.
- f. The Iraqi Police Service consists of all provincial police forces (station, patrol, traffic, and special units) assigned to all 18 Iraqi provinces.
- g. Includes the national Emergency Response Unit.
- h. The Ministry Of Defense (MOD) authorized numbers are derived from Modified Tables of Organization and Equipment (MTOEs).
- i. The MoD Army Training and Support Forces include logistics units and training center cadre.
- j. Does not include personnel assigned to Counterterrorism Bureau (CTB) or Counterterrorism Command (CTC) headquarters.



ECONOMIC – Economic & Government Capacity Update

Iraq to Reconsider Budget as Oil Prices Drop:

- Ministry of Finance spokesman Adnan Abdul-Rahman said the Government of Iraq will likely reevaluate its 2009 budget due to the recent fall in oil prices. A draft of the 2009 budget, submitted to the Council of Ministers last month, allocated nearly \$79 billion based on the expectation that oil prices would not drop below \$80 per barrel. On October 15, oil for November delivery was trading at \$78.02 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Iraqi crude destined for North America sells for a lower price than WTI crude.

Iraqi Stock Exchange Performs Well Despite Global Financial Downturn:

- Despite the downturn in the global financial markets, the Iraqi stock market has been relatively insulated from the shocks. The ISX Index rose nearly 40% percent in September due in part to improvements in the security situation. The stock market is small, with only 95 Iraqi companies listed and daily sales volumes of between \$1 and \$2 million; foreigners comprise less than 3% of the average volume. The exchange was opened in August 2007 to foreign investors and still conducts transactions manually, although there are plans to switch to electronic trading. It is open two hours a day three days a week, and regulated by the Iraqi Securities Commission, modeled after the U.S.'s SEC. Chief executive officer Taha Abdul-Salam said that the largest sector up for trading is the banking sector, although recent developments in the hotel industry have spurred demand for shares in that sector. The recent drop in oil prices remains a concern as Iraq is heavily dependent on oil to drive its economic growth.



ECONOMIC – Economic & Government Capacity Update

Iraq Concludes Port Study in Umm Qasr:

- The Government of Iraq concluded a study to build a new port in Umm Qasr between the existing northern and southern ports. According to a spokesperson from the Ministry of Transportation, the new port will have four quays, four stores, and an administration building; neither the project cost nor the timeline for construction was given. Iraq recently adjusted its timetable to privatize the southern port in Umm Qasr, and has leased one berth to the French shipping group CMA CGM on a one-year contract. It is possible the government may pursue similar agreements as a means to maintain ownership of the ports



ECONOMIC – Oil

Crude Oil Update:

Price averages in world markets closed with the following prices:

Basrah Light at \$66.70/barrel

Dated Brent at \$72.24/barrel

WTI Cushing at \$75.21/barrel

Oman/Dubai at \$68.48/barrel

Revenue estimates:

2006: \$31.3 Billion

2007: \$41.0 Billion

2008: \$56.2 Billion (ytd)

Iraq Holds First Oil Tender:

- The Iraqi Ministry of Oil launched a competition among 34 international oil companies for six producing oil fields and two undeveloped gas fields under 20-year service contracts. Iraq's Oil Minister Hussein al-Shahristani expects the process to be finalized in June 2009. Bids will be assessed on the basis of production targets. Tender protocols and data packages will be made available to companies by the end of the month. Companies will pay the Iraqi Ministry a participation fee ranging from \$250,000 to \$500,000 for each field on which they intend to bid. Iraqi officials said companies awarded contracts would be expected to sign the final agreement within three weeks of the award. All winning companies would be expected to open offices in Iraq within 90 days of the effective contract date. Current conditions in Iraq do not represent a force majeure condition according to the Ministry. Iraqi state-owned operating companies will own 51% majority stake in the contract.

ECONOMIC – Oil



Iraqi and Kurdish Ministers Deny DNO Received Export License:

- Both Iraqi Oil Minister Hussain al-Shahristani and the Kurdish Minister of Natural Resources Ashti Hawrami denied reports that the Norwegian firm DNO had been given an export license, which must be issued by the central government. DNO has been operating in the KRG without an export license, and has been forced to sell the oil it pumps on the Iraqi market at a price well below the world market price. After a news report claimed DNO had been given an export license, a report the company denied, shares in the company rose 54% on October 15.



ECONOMIC – Essential Services

Housing Prices on the Rise in Baghdad:

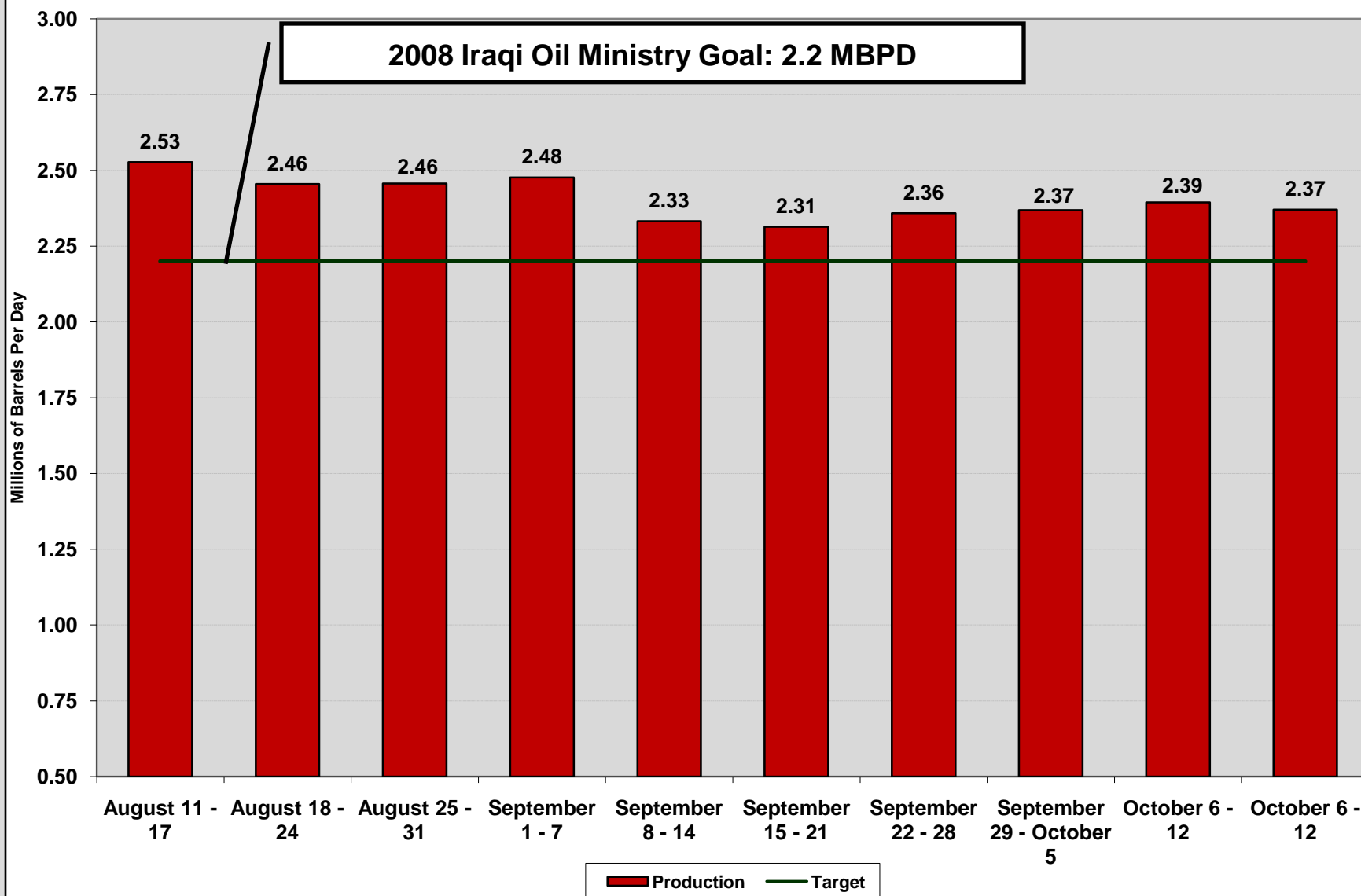
- Housing prices in Baghdad have begun to rise again as violence in Iraq's capital city drops and displaced Iraqis return. Housing prices are higher than before 2003 and in some areas double what they were a year ago as demand for housing exceeds supply. The majority of transactions are still cash-based transactions between buyers and sellers as mortgages like those done in the West are not available in Iraq.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Meets with Iraqi Prime Minister to Discuss Health Sector:

- Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt met with Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki to discuss developing Iraq's health sector and modernizing its technology. Secretary Leavitt also spoke on the U.S.-led initiative to train Iraqi doctors following a request from the Secretary's Iraqi counterpart, Minister of Health Salih al-Hasnawi. A number of Iraqi doctors have received training in the U.S., and another group of 31 is scheduled to arrive in the U.S. in the next 2 months. Prime Minister Maliki stressed his desire to strengthen U.S.-Iraqi relations and cooperation, particularly in the health and education sectors.

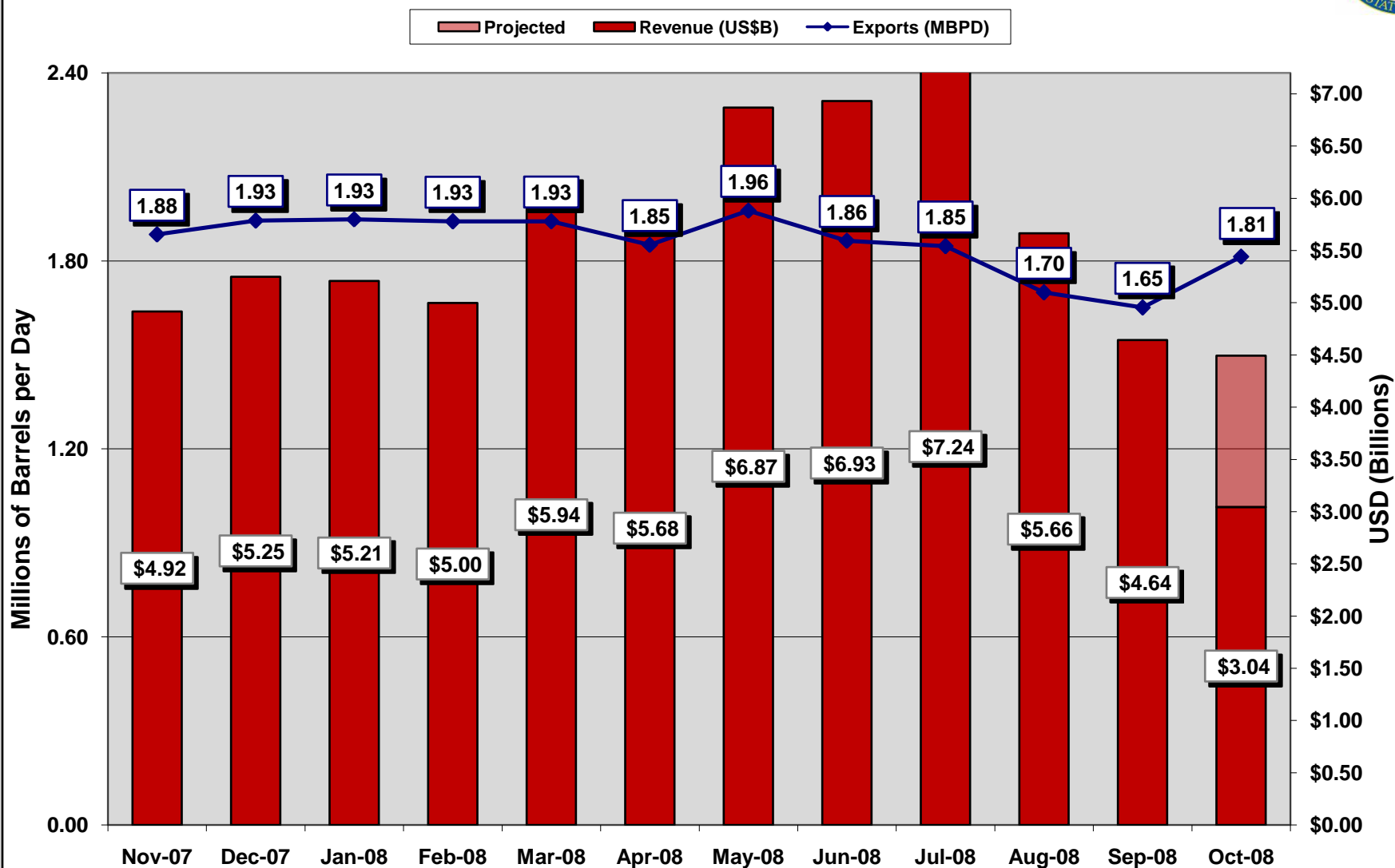


ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Production





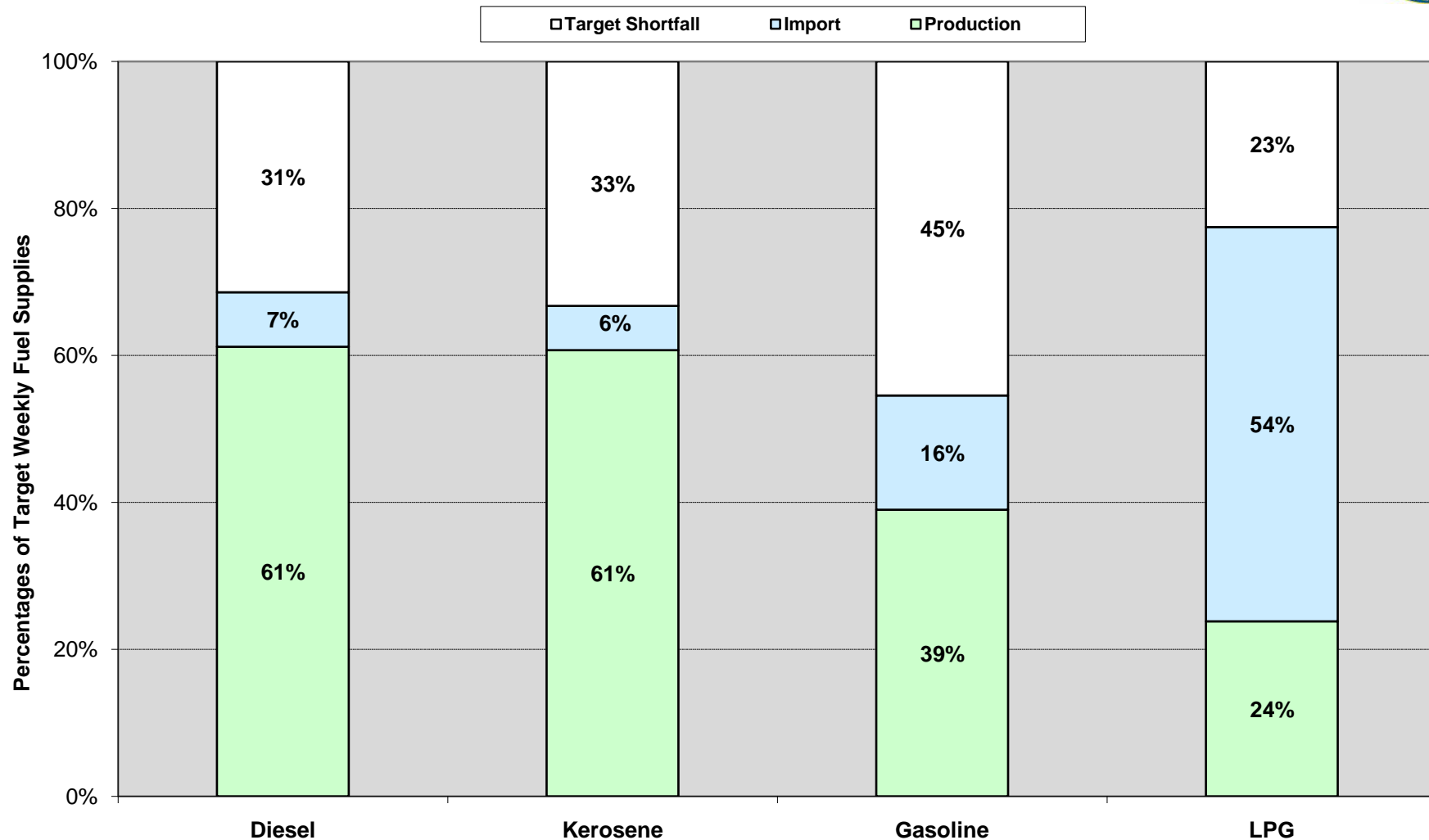
ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Export



- 2006 Revenue Estimate: \$31.3 Billion
- 2007 Revenue Estimate: \$41.0 Billion
- 2008 Revenue Estimate: \$55.4 Billion (ytd)



ECONOMIC – Total Critical Refined Product Supplies



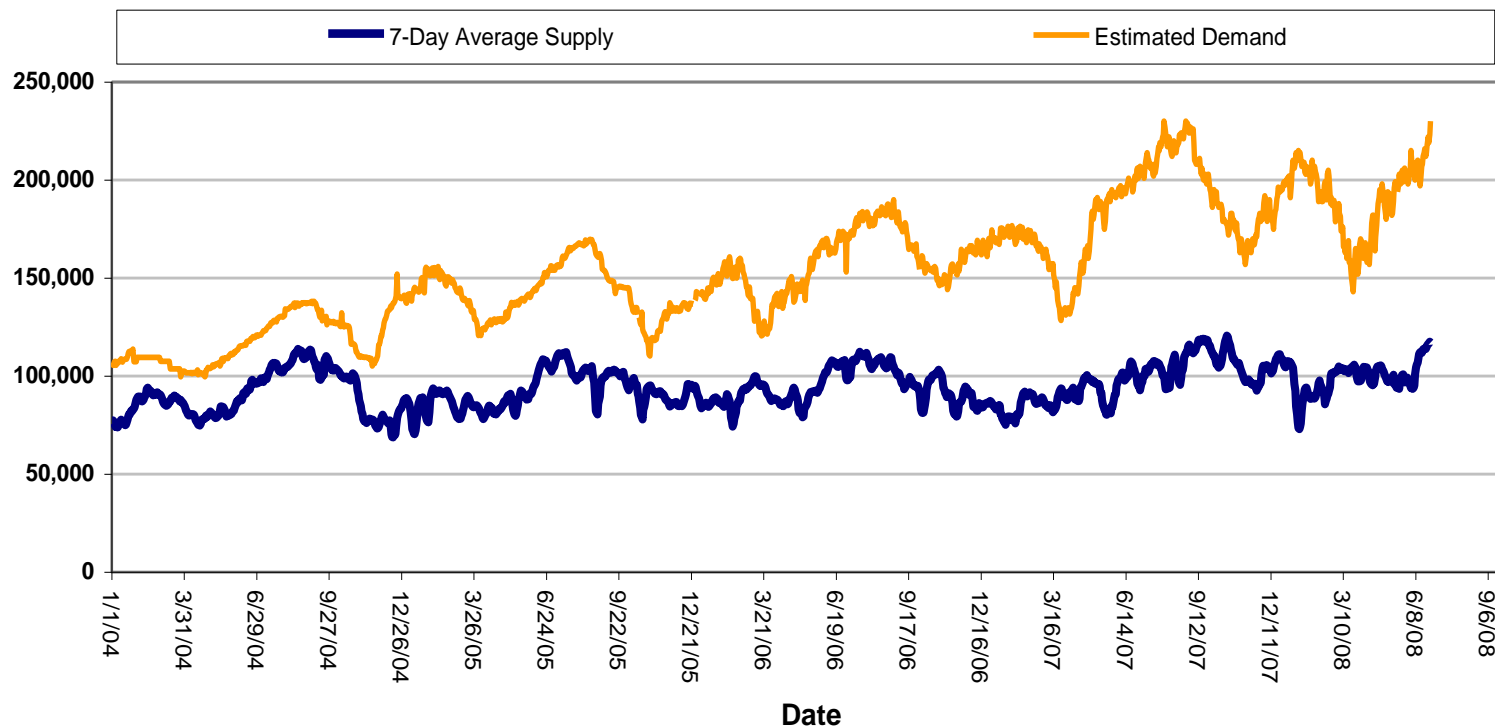
Note: This is a daily average for October 13 – 19

- Diesel: 16.8 ML supply of 24.5 ML target
- Kerosene: 9.7 ML supply of 14.6 ML target
- Gasoline: 14.6 ML supply of 26.8 ML target
- LPG: 3,951 tons supply of 5,100 tons target



ECONOMIC – Electricity

Daily Electricity Supplied and Estimated Demand in Iraq Since January 2004

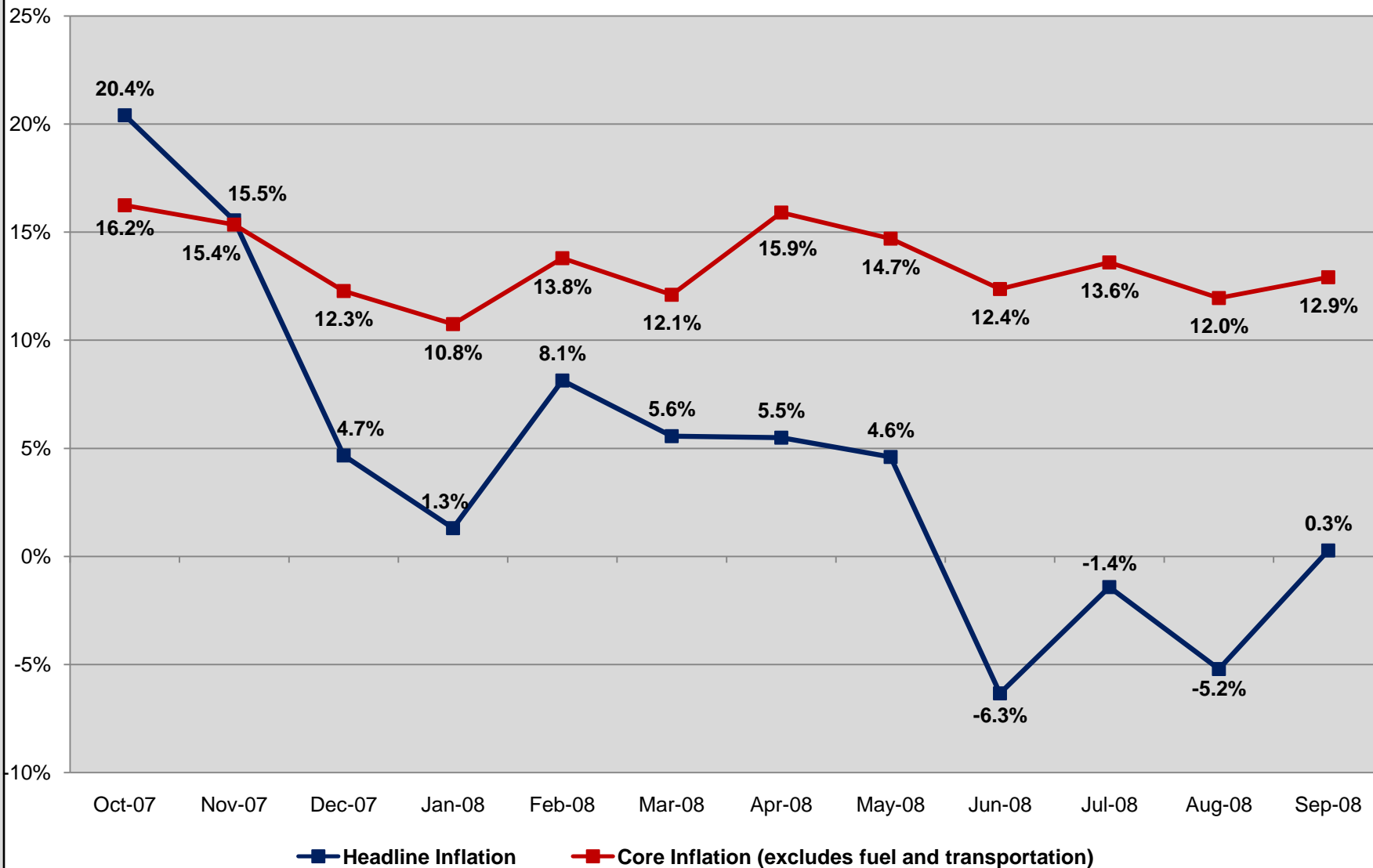


- Daily electricity demand October 14-20 was 8% above the same period last year. Daily supply from the grid was 7% below the year-earlier period and met 57% of demand, compared with 66% for the year-earlier period.
- For October 13-19 average hours of power from the grid after meeting demand from essential services were Baghdad: 12.7 and national 12.1. Year-ago levels were Baghdad 11.1 and national 14.0.



ECONOMIC – Economic Indicators

Year-on-Year Inflation





ECONOMIC – Economic Indicators

Economic Indicator	This Week	Last Week	Last Month	Last Year
Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales				
Price (USD)	\$56.27	\$62.35	\$70.24	\$62.82
Yield	11.49%	10.36%	9.11%	10.16%
Central Bank's USD Currency Auction				
USD Sold	\$164,181	\$161,394	\$87,039	\$66,957,492
NID Exchange Rate	\$1,178	\$1,179	\$1,180	\$1,254
Total Employed by USG Programs				
	118,691	116,475	122,788	N/A



ECONOMIC - Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) 1 and 2

Sector\Status (Millions of USD)			Committed			Obligated			Disbursed		
	Allocated	Un-allocated	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change
Security and Law	\$4,960	\$17	\$4,937	\$4,937	\$0	\$4,937	\$4,937	\$0	\$4,869	\$4,871	\$2
Justice and Civil Society	\$2,299	\$20	\$2,263	\$2,263	\$0	\$2,262	\$2,262	\$0	\$2,181	\$2,181	\$0
Electricity Sector	\$4,178	\$36	\$4,066	\$4,066	\$0	\$4,066	\$4,065	\$0	\$3,939	\$3,940	\$1
Oil Infrastructure	\$1,717	\$7	\$1,608	\$1,608	\$0	\$1,608	\$1,608	\$0	\$1,581	\$1,581	\$0
Water and Sanitation	\$2,054	\$21	\$1,983	\$1,983	\$0	\$1,980	\$1,980	\$0	\$1,847	\$1,849	\$3
Transportation and Comm\	\$462	\$2	\$459	\$459	\$0	\$459	\$459	\$0	\$421	\$421	\$0
Roads, Bridges and Const\	\$320	\$8	\$282	\$282	\$0	\$282	\$282	\$0	\$258	\$258	\$0
Health Care	\$810	\$9	\$793	\$793	\$0	\$793	\$793	\$0	\$744	\$744	\$0
Private Sector Development	\$838	\$1	\$820	\$820	\$0	\$820	\$820	\$0	\$814	\$814	\$0
Edu\, Refugees, Human Rights	\$470	\$0	\$436	\$436	\$0	\$435	\$435	\$0	\$409	\$409	\$0
Admin Expense (USAID, DoS)	\$220	\$0	\$218	\$218	\$0	\$218	\$218	\$0	\$208	\$208	\$0
Rescission	\$0	-\$50	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total IRRF II	\$18,328	\$71	\$17,864	\$17,864	\$0	\$17,859	\$17,859	\$0	\$17,272	\$17,278	\$6
IRRF II Non-Construction	-	-	\$7,972	\$7,972	\$0	\$7,970	\$7,970	\$0	\$7,773	\$7,773	\$0
IRRF II Construction	-	-	\$9,373	\$9,373	\$0	\$9,370	\$9,369	\$0	\$8,982	\$8,988	\$6
IRRF II Overhead	-	-	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$517	\$517	\$0
Total IRRF I	\$2,475	\$0	\$2,291	\$2,291	\$0	\$2,232	\$2,232	\$0	\$2,139	\$2,139	\$0
Grand Total IRRF I & II	\$20,803	\$71	\$20,155	\$20,155	\$0	\$20,092	\$20,092	\$0	\$19,411	\$19,417	\$6

Data as of the 22th of October 2008

Apportion amounts reflect those of the latest Executive Office of the President Report, published by the Office of Management and Budget. Committed, obligated and disbursed amounts reflect last numbers reported by each agency.



DIPLOMATIC – Political Engagement

Kuwaiti Ambassador to Iraq Arrives in Baghdad:

- Ambassador Ali Al-Mou'min, Kuwait's first ambassador to Iraq since that country's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, formally assumed his duties in Baghdad on October 22. During a press conference following his meeting with Foreign Minister Zebari, Al-Mou'min said, "we have decided to put the past behind us...in order to build mutual distinguished relations." Zebari welcomed this step by the Kuwaitis.

Bahraini FM Visits Baghdad:

- Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Khaled bin Ahmed al-Khalifa visited Baghdad on October 18 and held a joint press conference with his Iraqi counterpart, Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari. The two leaders discussed Iraqi-Bahraini relations and ways to strengthen Iraq's ties with its Arab neighbors. Foreign Minister Sheikh Khaled urged Gulf countries to forgive the billions in debt Iraq owes and stated that the "debts were imposed on Iraq, and Iraqi citizens had no role in them. We are always working with our brothers to help Iraq."



DIPLOMATIC – Political Engagement

PM Maliki Cancels Visit to Australia:

- Prime Minister Maliki's visit to Australia, expected to take place on October 22, was cancelled this week, according to a statement released by a spokeswoman for Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. The ongoing SOFA negotiations with the United States were cited as the reason. This would have been the first visit to Australia by an Iraqi leader.

Saudi Arabia Cites Security Concerns for Diplomat Delay:

- Speaking at a joint news conference with visiting EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana on October 21, Foreign Minister Saud Al-Faisal announced that the government of Saudi Arabia would not send an ambassador to Iraq, due to security concerns. FM Al-Faisal stated that there is no point sending a diplomat, since he would end up being forced to remain inside a "fortress" to stay safe and thus unable to work effectively.

British Defense Secretary Visits Iraq:

- The new British Defense Secretary, John Hutton, made his first visit to Iraq on October 19 and 20. He met Prime Minister Maliki and British forces in Baghdad and Basrah. He praised the "significant progress" which has taken place in Iraq. Echoing comments made by Prime Minister Gordon Brown in July, Hutton spoke of the expected "fundamental change" in Britain's role next year and the move to a "broad-based bilateral partnership".

DIPLOMATIC – Economic Engagement



USG Funds Campaign to Restore Iraqi Antiquities:

- First Lady Laura Bush unveiled a \$14 million campaign to rebuild the cultural and historical institutions in Iraq at the Iraqi Embassy in Washington, D.C. on October 16. Embassy Baghdad and the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs will fund the campaign, which hopes to safeguard the country's antiquities. The project will establish a conservation and historic preservations institute in Erbil, help support an education program for Iraqi preservationists at Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History, and upgrade Iraq's National Museum in Baghdad.



DIPLOMATIC – Coalition Contributors

23 Countries with forces in Iraq (including US)

Albania	Czech Republic	Kazakhstan	Poland
Australia	Denmark	Korea	Romania
Azerbaijan	El Salvador	Latvia	Tonga
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Estonia	Lithuania	Ukraine
Bulgaria	Georgia	Macedonia	United Kingdom
	Japan	Moldova	

TOTAL ~ 6,850 Forces

29 Countries and NATO* (including the US) **Support Iraqi Stability Operations**

29 includes the US, the 22 countries listed above, and six non-MNF-I countries: Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Turkey

Note: Fiji and New Zealand, participating as a part of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), are not included.

Note: Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Poland have completed their OIF missions and are in the process of redeploying from Iraq.

Information current as of October 22, 2008.

CONTACT INFORMATION



- This brief draws from multiple sources. References are cited on the following pages.
- Please forward all questions and/or comments to:
NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov



NOTES AND SOURCE CITATIONS (1 of 2)

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Slide 10:

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- Attaakhi - http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/38398

Slide 16-18:

- Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov

Slide 19:

- Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov
- The chart shows average daily power production in megawatt hours (MWh). 120,000 MWh goal equates to 20 hours at 6000 MW average supplied load or 24 hours at 5000 MW average supply load.

Slide 20:

- Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov

Slide 21:

- Derived from Multiple Sources. (ITAO IMU Essential Indicators Report, Baghdad, 23 October 2008) (Bloomberg) (Central Bank of Iraq, Foreign Exchange Auction, CBiraq.org) (<http://www.cbiraq.org/C.B.I.%20FOREIGN%20EXCHANGE%20AUCTIONS.pdf>)

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Slide 26:

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